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REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested. Claim 2 was objected to. The informality of claim 2 has been corrected. The specification was objected to because Figs. 5A and 5B were not included. This has now been corrected.

Claim 8 was rejected under Section 112 for failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Claim 8 has been amended to clarify that the coating is applied through the endless wire and then onto the paper. The method step teaches applying the coating through the wire. The Examiner is encouraged to read page 14 of the specification and study Fig. 8 where it clearly shows and the text explains that the tube 232 provides the coating substance that is then applied through the wire 222 and onto the paper 202. It is submitted that claim 8 is now enabling to a person of ordinary skill in the art.

Claims 1-10 were rejected under Section 112 for being indefinite. The claims have been amended to consistently use the term "coating" for better clarity.

Claim 3 has been amended to distinguish the applicator transducer from the transducer at the blade. Claim 3 should now be in conformance with Section 112.

Claim 7 has been amended to remove the "circulating" language. Claim 7 should now be in conformance with Section 112.

Claims 1-4, 6-7 and 9 were rejected under Section 103 as being obvious over Leino in view of DE 2356737 (the German patent). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

To summarize, an important aspect of the scraping method of the present invention is the longitudinal vibration of the blade in a direction that is parallel to and along the length blade. In other words, instead of transversely vibrating the blade back and forth the blade is vibrated in the lengthwise direction so that the blade tip goes in and

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out in the same direction as the double arrow (282) in Fig. 12.

Leino merely shows a method for applying a coat with high solids content. One embodiment has a stationary
5 metering blade 16 that is captured between a holder and a lower lip. One important feature of Leino's invention is that a smooth surface can be obtained even on high coat weights (see last sentence of the abstract).

The Examiner correctly states that Leino does not
10 teach the step of vibrating the blade with an ultrasonic transducer. Leino also fails to teach the step of longitudinally vibrating the blade in a direction that is parallel to and along the length of the blade.

DE 23 56 737 fails to cure these deficiencies. The
15 German patent merely appears to show a method for applying transverse vibrations by a vibrator 10 that transversely engage the side of the blade 1. However, the German patent does not teach or suggest the step of longitudinally vibrating the blade in a direction that is parallel to and lengthwise
20 along the blade. In contrast, the German patent shows a vibration that is transverse to and perpendicular to the length of the blade.

It is submitted that the cited references do not teach or suggest that they be combined in the manner
25 suggested. Even if they are combined, they do not teach or suggests all the limitations required by the amended claim 1.

Applicant fails to see why a person of ordinary skill in the art would look to combine Leino with DE 23 56 737 when such combination is not suggested and even if
30 combined, does not teach all the limitations of the amended claim 1. The German patent completely fails to teach or suggest the longitudinal vibration also. The cited references require extensive modifications that are not taught or suggested to meet all the limitations of the
35 amended claim 1.

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Therefore, it is submitted that the amended claim 1 is allowable.

Claims 2-4, 6-7 and 9 are submitted to be allowable because they include limitations that are not taught or suggested in the cited reference and because they, either directly or indirectly, depend upon the allowable base claim 1.

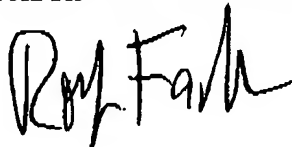
Claim 8 is submitted to be allowable because it includes limitations that are not taught or suggested in the cited reference and because it, either directly or indirectly, depends upon the allowable base claim 1.

Claims 5 and 10 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the Section 112 rejections and include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 5 and 10 have both been rewritten into independent form and should now be allowable.

The application is submitted to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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